GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3014
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
ADVERTISEMENTS ON CHAT LINES AND FRIENDSHIP NETWORKS
BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the advertisement appearing in prominent dailies for chat lines and friendship network; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for banning such advertisements?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government does not interfere in functioning of the Press.The Press Council of India, a body enjoined upon to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country, had in 1998 appealed to the owners and editors of newspapers not to accept such advertisements. Some newspapers responded positively to the appeal. The Press Council of India is seized of the mushrooming of similar offers from centres operating within the country.